

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am truly appalled by the lack of useful television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming.

Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have a better understanding of the issues and the global and domestic problems that are confronting us.

Sincerely,

Monika Wood  
116 Barclay Lane  
Cherry Hill, NJ 080342826